

Abstract of the Laws

Against Sabbath-Breaking, Swearing, and Drunkenness.

Published under the Direction of the Committee of Special Constables, and the Society for the Reformation of Manners.

Laws against Sabbath-breaking.

By 1 Eliz. c. 2. f. 14...24.

All Persons are required to attend their Parish Church or Chapel, or some Congregation of Religious Worship, upon every Sunday, (not having reasonable Excuse to be absent), on pain of Punishment, and of forfeiting 12d. to the Poor for every Offence.

By the 1 J. c. 22. f. 28.

No Shoemaker shall shew, to the Intent to put to Sale, any Shoes, Boots, &c., upon the Sunday, on pain of forfeiting 3s. 4d. a Pair, besides the Value thereof.

By the 3 C. c. 1.

All Carriers with Horses, Carts, or Waggons, and Drovers with Cattle, are forbid travelling on the Sunday, on pain of forfeiting 20s.—And also if any Butcher shall *kill or sell* any Victual on the said Day, he shall forfeit 6s. 8d. to the Use of the Poor; except the Justices may give one third to the Informer.

By the 29 C. 2. c. 7.

Any Tradesman, Artificer, Workman, Labourer, or other Person whatsoever, exercising any worldly Labour, Business, or Work of their ordinary Callings, on the Lord's Day, or any Part thereof, (Works of Necessity and Charity, only excepted), if above 14 Years of Age, shall forfeit 5s.—And no Person shall publicly cry, shew forth, or expose to Sale, any Wares, Merchandizes, Fruit, Herbs, Goods, or Chattles whatsoever, upon the Lord's Day, or any Part thereof, on pain of forfeiting the same.

By the 10 and 11 W. c. 24. f. 14.

No Person shall sell any Wares or Merchandize, on the Lord's Day; nor expose the same to Sale, (except Milk, before nine o'Clock in the Morning, and after four o'Clock in the Afternoon), on pain of forfeiting the same.—And any Person offending, if convicted any Time within ten Days after the Offence, on the Oath of one Witness, shall by Warrant from the Justice have the Goods or Wares which were exposed to Sale seized, taken, and sold for the Use of the Poor; except a Reward to the Informer, not exceeding one third: And if there be no Distress found on the Premises, the Offender shall be put in the Stocks.

Laws against Swearing.

By the 19 G. 2. c. 21. f. 1...4...6, 7.

If any Person shall profanely curse or swear, and be thereof convicted, on the Oath of one Witness, before one Justice of the Peace, or by Confession; every Person so offending shall forfeit as followeth, viz., every Day Labourer, common Soldier, Sailor, or Seaman, 1s.; and every other Person under the Degree of a Gentleman, 2s.; and every Person of, or above the Degree of a Gentleman, 5s.—And if he shall, after Conviction, offend a second Time, he shall forfeit *double*; and for every other Offence, after a second Conviction, *treble*. And if he do not immediately pay down the Sum so forfeited, he shall be committed to the House of Correction.

And if any Justice or Mayor shall wilfully and wittingly omit the Performance of his Duty in the Execution of this Act, he shall forfeit £5. And if any Constable or other Peace Officer shall omit the Performance of his Duty in the Execution of this Act, he shall forfeit 40s.

Laws against Drunkenness.

By the 4 J. c. 5.

Every Person who shall be drunk, shall forfeit 5s. to the Use of the Poor. And if he refuse, or be not able to pay, he shall be committed to the Stocks for the Space of six Hours. And for the second Offence, he shall be bound in an Obligation of £10, for his good Behaviour.

If any Alehouse-keeper shall be convicted of such Offence, he shall be disabled to keep any such Alehouse for three Years.

If any Alehouse-keeper shall permit any Person to *tipple*, (other than such as shall be invited by any Traveller, and shall accompany him only during his Abode there; and other than labouring and handicraft Men, in Market Towns, &c., upon the usual working Days, for one Hour at Dinner-time, to take their Diet in an Alehouse; and other than Labourers and Workmen, which for the following of their Work by the Day or by the Great, in any Market Town, &c., shall, for the Time of their continuing to work there, lodge in any Alehouse, &c.; and other than for urgent Occasions to be allowed by two Justices), every such Alehouse-keeper shall forfeit 10s. to the Poor, and be disabled from keeping an Alehouse for three Years.

And, if any Person shall continue drinking or tippling in any Inn, &c., he shall forfeit 3s. 4d. to the Poor; and if he be unable or unwilling to pay, he shall be set in the Stocks for four Hours.

If any Alehouse-keeper shall be convicted of such Offence, he shall be disabled from keeping any such Alehouse for the Space of three Years.

N.B. Publicans are desired not to suffer Company to remain in their Houses after Nine o'Clock on Sunday Nights, nor after Eleven o'Clock on any other Night in the Week.

STOCKPORT, November, 1797.